

I write in favor of this petition (RM-10783) and related petitions asking for removal of the Element 1 Morse Code requirement. Elimination of the Morse Code requirement will not deny any Amateur Operator the opportunity to practice the art of Morse Code; it will, however, make the hobby appeal to a larger audience of prospective Amateurs.

I am not persuaded by the arguments that elimination of the Morse Code requirement will turn the Amateur Service into Citizens Band (CB) radio. First, the existing theory licensing requirements still provide a steep barrier to entry to those not committed to the hobby. With the introduction of the vastly more difficult Technician Class exams on July 1, 2003 we have observed a dramatic decline in candidates at our VE sessions. Second, there is no relationship whatsoever between Morse Code proficiency and effective communications skills. Arguably the existing theory exams are not rigorous enough with regard to rules & regulations and good (non-technical) operating techniques, but these deficiencies will not be addressed by retaining Element 1.

Eliminating the Element 1 Morse Code requirement will also simplify VE testing, requiring fewer VEs and eliminating cumbersome testing gear.

I urge the FCC to take immediate action to eliminate the Element 1 Morse Code requirement.

Respectfully,

Ken Alan
K6PSI
W5YI Contact VE
ARRL Life Member
Amateur Extra
General Radiotelephone Operator Licensee
"